

at least one converter module connected between said plurality of nodes and said logical decision gate, each converter module converting an optical output from one of said nodes to an electrical signal which is fed to one of said inputs of said logical decision gate;

a plurality of switching means, each switching means connected between an output of said logical decision gate and an input of one of said converter modules for controlling said converter module independent of an output signal on the output of said decision gate.

4. The data bus arrangement according to Claim 3, wherein said switch means includes a control register addressable from a micro controller; and

an OR gate having a first input for receiving the output of said decision gate and the second input for receiving an output of said control register.

5. A method for controlling communication among a plurality of data nodes, comprising the steps of:

providing a decision gate having a plurality of inputs corresponding to said plurality of nodes;

providing at least one converter module connected between said plurality of nodes and said logical decision gate, each

converter module converting an optical out from one of said nodes to an electrical signal which is fed to one of said inputs of said logical decision gate;

outputting a signal from said logical decision gate to an input of each of said converter modules;

providing a plurality of switchable control means, each of said plurality of switchable control means connected to one of said converter modules for controlling said converter module independent of an output signal on the output of said decision gate.--

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please add an Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate page.

**REMARKS**

Entry of the amendments to the specification, claims and abstract, before examination of the application is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an